

HEALTH
A 18 AUG 53
C.R. 6

S T O W M A R K E T
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

o f t h e

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
(p a r t t i m e)

M A R J O R Y A . D A W S O N , M . B . , C h . B . , D . P . H .

a n d t h e

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

a n d

M E A T A N D F O O D S I N S P E C T O R .

J . S . F I S H E R , C . R . S . I . , M . S . I . A .

f o r t h e y e a r

1 9 5 2 .

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

August, 1953.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for 1952.

The year under review has been a fairly healthy one, there
being a small outbreak of Whooping Cough in the third quarter
of the year, which was confined to younger children.

The population remains steady and the death rate remains
favourable as compared with that of the remainder of England
and Wales.

Poliomyelitis investigations continue. Under the auspices
of the Medical Research Council, Stowmarket is one of the
"guinea pig" areas for research into the mode of spread of
this disease. The town sewers have been swabbed at intervals
(about three monthly) throughout the year and further research
is continuing on the subject.

In March an investigation of shallow wells regarding the
presence of nitrates was instituted in association with the
East Suffolk County Council. A high nitrate content in
those well waters may give rise to Cyanosis in very young
babies. A system has been evolved whereby such wells are
examined continually in the event of an expected confinement,
and although such wells are relatively uncommon in an urban
district, Stowmarket U.D.C. is included in the scheme.

During the year the East Suffolk County Council set up a
separate administration to deal with mental health in closer
co-operation with its other health services and the Joint
Board, with West Suffolk, which previously dealt with this
aspect, was dissolved.

During the year, as previously, I have received support
and assistance from members of the Council staff, and
especially from Mr. Fisher your Sanitary Inspector, and I
wish to record once more my appreciation and thanks.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.	...	...	...	...	...	1696 acres.
Population (Estimated mid-year Home						
Population - Registrar General's						
figures)...	...	...	...	...	...	7413.
Inhabited Houses....	...	...	...	...	...	2378.
Rateable Value. ...	...	...	...	...	...	£47,690.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	...	...	...	...	...	£184.

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

			M.	F.	Total.
Total.	...	...	58.	50.	108.
Legitimate.	...	...	55.	48.	103.
Illegitimate...	...	...	3.	2.	5.

BIRTH RATE :-

per 1,000 home population.	=	14.569.
do. do. England and Wales.	=	15.3.
Comparability factor.	=	1.07.

STILL BIRTHS.

			M.	F.	Total.
Total.	...	...	2.	2.	4.
Legitimate.	...	...	2.	2.	4.
Illegitimate...	...	...	-.	-.	-.

RATE :-

per 1,000 home population.	=	0.54.
do. do. England and Wales.	=	0.35.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Under one year).

			M.	F.	Total.
Total.	...	...	1.	-.	1.
Legitimate.	...	...	1.	-.	1.
Illegitimate...	...	...	-.	-.	-.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

Nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

per 1,000 live births.	=	9.26.
do. England and Wales.	=	27.6.

DEATHS. (Registrar General's figures).

			M.	F.	Total.
All causes...	...		48.	31.	79.

DEATH RATE :-

per 1,000 home population.	=	10.657.
do. do. England and Wales.	=	11.3.
Comparability factor.	=	0.93.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-.	1.	1.
do. , lung, bronchus.	2.	-.	2.
do. , uterus.	-.	2.	2.
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	9.	4.	13.
Diabetes.	-.	1.	1.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10.	6.	16.
Coronary disease, angina.	7.	3.	10.
Hypertension with heart disease.	6.	1.	7.
Other heart disease.	3.	7.	10.
Other circulatory disease.	3.	2.	5.
Pneumonia.	1.	-.	1.
Bronchitis.	2.	1.	3.
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1.	-.	1.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1.	1.	2.
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	1.	-.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1.	-.	1.
All other accidents (other than Motor Vehicle accidents).	1.	2.	3.
Totals :-	48.	31.	79.

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1950.	1951.	1952.	England & Wales. 1952.	London 1952.
Inhabited Houses.	2,319.	2,355.	2,378.	-.	-.
Population (Registrar General's figures).	7,416.	7,382.	7,413.	-.	-.
Live Births.	112.	102.	108.	-.	-.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	15.1.	13.817.	14.569.	15.3.	17.6.
Deaths of Infants under one year.	2.	1.	1.	-.	-.
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	17.86.	9.8.	9.26.	27.6.	23.8.
Death Rate per 1,000 population.	9.98.	12.19.	10.657.	11.3.	12.6.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. (excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from notifications received.

Diseases.	Ages.							Total.	Admit- ted to Hosp- ital.	Deaths.
	-1	1/ 2	3/ 4	5/ 9	10/ 14	15/ 24	25 +			
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	2	9	-	-	1	12	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3.	10	14	17	-	1	2	47	1	-
Measles.	-	3	3	9	-	-	-	15	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals :-								77.	2.	-.

Twenty-seven of the Whooping Cough cases occurred in the third quarter of the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of pre-school children immunised, 1952 ...	127.
Number of school children immunised, 1952. ...	13.
"Booster" treatment, 1952. ...	121.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
(i) New cases notified.	2.	3.	1.	1.

(ii) Ages of new cases :-

Pulmonary (Lungs).

2 Males.	-	32 and 7 years.
3 Females.	-	24, 39, and 46 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 Male.	-	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ years.
1 Female.	-	47 years.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30142453>

(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year :-

1 Pulmonary. (Male - 25 years).
3 Non-Pulmonary. { 1 Male - 50 years)
 (2 Females. - 34 and 43 years).

(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death" during the year :-

1 Pulmonary. - (Male - 50 years. - Death).

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year :-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
11.	11.	22.	7.	13.	20.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was taken under this Section, but see comments under heading "Aged Persons" in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supply for the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity .
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and of the water going into supply - one each from the Town (Station Road) and Poplar Hill Waterworks, and four from services off the former and two off the latter. One was taken from a service off the Stowupland Waterworks supply,
- All samples from the Urban supplies were reported "very satisfactory". That from the Stowupland supply was "unsatisfactory" and was referred to the Gipping Rural District Council Water Engineer, who later reported that four further samples from this source had been found "very satisfactory".
- (iii) The waters were not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action in respect of any form of contamination was necessary in respect of the Urban District.
- (v) The number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains was as follows :-
- (a) Direct to houses. - 2,306. (Population approx: 7200).
- (b) By means of stand-pipes.- 10. (Population approx: 40).

In addition, 35 houses (population approximately 140) are supplied from the Stowupland Waterworks, which is in the Gipping Rural District,

SEWERAGE.

Stage 1 of the Council's new scheme has now been in operation for nearly three years, and apart from the usual troubles associated with a new plant, the system is working well. The effluent produced is far superior to that of the old works.

Detail work in connection with Stage 2 has been in progress for some months and an experimental surface aeration plant has been installed.

Regular analyses of the crude sewage, primary tank effluent, and final effluent are taken, and it is hoped that the results obtained will enable Stage 2 to be finally planned.

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor for this section of the report.

MEAT, MILK, AND OTHER FOODS.

Action under this heading is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 is attached.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

MARJORY A. DAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

August, 1953.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to submit my seventh Annual Report, this being for the year 1952.

HOUSING.

During the year eight houses and twelve flats were completed for the Council, and three houses by private enterprise, and at the close of the year four houses, twelve flats, and fourteen bungalows were in course of construction for the Council and twelve houses for private enterprise.

No proceedings towards making Demolition Orders were taken, but the time is approaching when this question will have to be considered. There are a number of houses which were scheduled for such action fourteen years ago but no actual Orders were made, and while they have been reasonably well maintained under the difficult circumstances of rising costs and fixed rents, many are much below a reasonable standard of accommodation and amenity. It is true that they have satisfied a need, when almost any accommodation was better than none at all, and people are still glad to live in them, but the Council must soon consider making a start towards clearing the worst of them.

OVERCROWDING.

Two cases of overcrowding were investigated, and referred to the Housing Superintendent.

DIRTY HOUSES.

Four dirty houses, occupied by four old ladies, living alone, were inspected and visited from time to time, but excepting in one case, in which relatives were able to help, little could be done to effect any real improvement. These cases are further referred to in the next paragraph.

AGED PERSONS.

In all, seven cases of old people living alone - one man and one woman in rooms, and five women in houses - were investigated and visited on numerous occasions, and were also referred to the County Welfare Department.

The man was, after much persuasion, induced to enter a Home. One woman was removed to a Mental Hospital, but was later allowed to return home, her house having been cleaned in the meantime. She makes spasmodic efforts, under constant pressure, to improve conditions, but these are largely unsuccessful. Another, after very much persuasion over a long period of time, entered hospital, where she passed away a very short time after admission. One entered hospital for a short time, and her house was cleaned by relatives in her absence, and conditions have since considerably improved. Two would not yield to persuasion, but were eventually admitted to hospital as a result of accidents in their homes. One so far has resolutely refused to voluntarily enter a Home or hospital, and the conditions under which she is living are very far from satisfactory. This type of case is one which occasions considerable concern and presents a very serious problem. None of them come completely within the conditions set out in Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, but it is quite certain that, in their own interests, all should have been in Homes where they could have been properly cared for. The position is aggravated by the apparent scarcity of beds in Homes and hospitals for this type of person, and it seems that little can be done for them unless they meet with an accident, or are really ill and helpless. Whilst one would not wish to deprive these old people of what they regard as their privacy and independence, it is distressing to find hitherto clean, respectable people living in conditions which would have horrified them a few years ago, and being unable to do anything about it.

FOOD HYGIENE.

All food establishments have been visited at irregular intervals and have generally been found reasonably satisfactory.

Details of work under this heading are as follows :-

(a) Meat (Home Killed).

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	1,298.	374.	910.	2,477.	2,067.
Number inspected.	1,298.	374.	910.	2,477.	2,067.
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	3.	2.	16.	2.	19.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	303.	61.	1.	35.	71.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	23.57.	16.84.	1.87.	1.49.	4.35.
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2.	5.	-.	-.	2.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	49.	51.	-.	-.	66.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	3.93.	14.97.	-.	-.	3.29.

A 100% inspection of all the carcasses and offals passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse was again maintained, with the help of the Slaughterhouse Manager (Mr.C.A.Lilley), who has readily co-operated by examining carcasses and offals on the occasions when I have been away on leave etc. The Sanitary Inspector of the adjoining Rural District has also been available on these occasions if required. It has entailed attendance at the Slaughterhouse on numerous occasions out of normal working hours, and for part of some thirty Sundays during the year, as well as taking up an increasing amount of normal working time.

The following Tables show (i) the animals killed; (ii) meat and offals condemned; and (iii) the percentage found to be affected with disease during the past four years :-

(i) <u>ANIMALS KILLED.</u>				
	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Cattle.	1,007.	1,218.	1,314.	1,672.
Calves.	1,110.	1,156.	1,059.	910.
Sheep and Lambs.	1,641.	1,769.	1,453.	2,477.
Pigs.	323.	504.	1,160.	2,067.
Totals :-	4,081.	4,647.	4,986.	7,126.
(ii) <u>MEAT AND OFFALS CONDEMNED.</u>				
Meat.	17,618.	12,671 $\frac{1}{2}$.	9,116 $\frac{1}{2}$.	13,537 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Offals.	12,210 $\frac{1}{2}$.	9,700 $\frac{1}{2}$.	8,255.	9,681 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Meat from other districts.	2,422.	-.	344.	833 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Imported meat.	-.	228.	4.	- lbs.
(iii) <u>PERCENTAGE OF ANIMALS KILLED AFFECTED WITH DISEASE.</u>				
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Cattle, excluding Cows.	30.94. (9.74.)	23.06. (8.45.)	13.54. (7.18.)	23.57. (7.55.) *
Cows.	23.6. (12.0.)	22.81. (11.7.)	16.8. (13.0.)	16.84. (8.82.) *
Calves.	0.9.	0.95.	2.27.	1.87.
Sheep and Lambs.	4.27.	1.41.	2.55.	1.49.
Pigs.	38.1.	17.66.	7.5.	4.35.

* The figures in brackets relate to all diseases except Tuberculosis and Distomatosis. - See following note.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>				
	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Cattle, excluding Cows.	9.46.	6.39.	7.49.	3.93.
Cows.	34.0.	28.65.	20.65.	14.97.
Calves.	0.45.	0.09.	0.09.	-.
Sheep and Lambs.	-.	-.	-.	-.
Pigs.	6.2.	3.37.	1.72.	3.29.

The total "kill" at the Slaughterhouse was 75% above that of 1949, only Calves showing a decrease, and the total condemnations from this "kill" some 6,609 lbs. less. The higher percentage of cattle affected with "disease other than Tuberculosis" was due to the larger number of Livers affected by the parasite *Distomum Hepaticum* (Liver Fluke). This parasite is most prevalent during a wet season, and animals grazing on low marshy land are more liable to be affected. The incidence is higher in some parts of the Country than others, and it is to be inferred that a number of cattle were received at the Slaughterhouse from these parts.

As I commented last year, these figures are interesting and reassuring, showing mainly a downward trend over the period reviewed of the percentage of animals affected with disease of various kinds. This is particularly so in the case of Cattle affected with Tuberculosis. The standard of inspection has not been relaxed in any way, and the percentages indicate a healthier condition of animals which are presented for slaughter. It will be appreciated that these comments concern animals slaughtered at the Stowmarket slaughterhouse, and do not necessarily reflect the position in other parts of the country.

(b) Imported Meat.

No meat imported from overseas was condemned, but 833 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of meat received from other districts were found to be unfit on arrival. Most of this was in a state of decomposition, and was received during the hot days of July and August. Better means of transport would have prevented some of this loss.

(c) Tinned and Other Foods.

The following tinned and other foods were condemned :-

		<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>	
Fish.	36 tins.	19.	1.	
	1 jar.		3 $\frac{1}{4}$.	Bulk 21 lbs.
Fruit.	320 tins.	482.	8 $\frac{3}{4}$.	
	12 jars.	9.	3 $\frac{3}{4}$.	
	1 jar.	(12 fluid	ozs).	Bulk 65 lbs.
Jams and				
Conserves.	2 tins.	3.	7.	
	2 jars.	1.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$.	
Meat.	119 tins.	246.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$.	Bulk 36 lbs.(Cooked Ham).
Milk.	28 tins.	25.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$.	
	18 tins.			equiv: 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ pts.
Vegetables.	62 tins.	59.	6.	
Miscell- aneous.	41 tins.	26.	12.	
	1 tin.			1 gallon.
	12 packets.	5.	12.	Bulk 160lbs. 8 ozs.
	655 tins etc.	879.	8 $\frac{1}{4}$.	equiv: 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints.
		(12 fluid	ozs.)	1 gallon.
				Bulk 282 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Total:- 1,200 lbs. (approx.).

Of the tins etc. condemned, 18% was due to damage in transit. The majority of the remainder were "blown" tins.

(d) Total Weight of All Foods Condemned.

11.278 tons.	(1951. - 8.58 tons.)
	(1950. - 10.632 tons.)
	(1949. - 15.25 tons.)

(e) Slaughterhouse.

This has been maintained in good and clean condition. During the first three months of the year work was greatly hampered by the absence, through sickness, of one or other of the Slaughtermen, and at the end of March the Home Killed Meat Association Ltd. took over the slaughtering contract. They have been co-operative in every way, and have readily complied with all requirements.

Improved artificial lighting throughout the Slaughterhouse buildings was pressed for, and was in hand at the close of the year.

(f) Transport of Meat.

This has again been the subject to strong protests and some amount of correspondence, but little advance has been made and the same unsatisfactory type of vehicle has continued in use. None of the vehicles are equipped for hanging any carcases other than "smalls", and one at least is not fitted for that. These unsatisfactory, and unhygienic, methods of transporting and handling meat lay open to contempt and ridicule the insistence on hygienic practices in the Slaughterhouse and the Butcher's Shops. The vehicles arrive at the Slaughterhouse clean, but the floors cannot fail to be fouled as the loaders walk in and out in the process of loading, and unloading, during which latter process the meat is dragged over the floors so soiled. It is encouraging to note that an increasing number of Local Authorities are protesting against the continued use of this type of vehicle.

(g) Food Premises.

Periodical visits were paid to all food premises, and regular inspections made of all food stalls in the market.

Four additions were made to the register of premises for the sale of ice cream, bringing the total to twenty-seven.

Cards were issued for display in all food shops, requesting owners of dogs not to bring them into the shops, and these were welcomed by the shopkeepers.

(h) Milk.

The Dairies have been visited periodically, and with the exception of one, found generally satisfactory. This one had been a source of trouble for some time, but during the year it came under new management, and some improvement in conditions was effected.

One firm of Dairymen was prosecuted under Article 26 (1) of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for delivering milk in an unclean bottle. The firm pleaded guilty, but put in

a defence that they themselves did not bottle the milk but delivered it as received from the Bottling Firm, who, because of a "slip up" in the law could not be joined as co-defendants. The Bench accepted the submission and granted a conditional discharge, with expenses against the firm. It was stated in Court that this point was being taken up with the Ministry of Health by the National Dairymen's Association.

The Milk and Dairies Register contains details of three dairy premises, one Wholesale Distributor, and four Retail Distributors, one of whom operates from a Dairy in the adjoining Rural District. Three are registered for the sale of bottled milk only.

Two new Pasteurised Dealer's Licences were granted and one renewed, and one new Tuberculin Tested Dealer's Licence granted and two renewed.

(i) Slaughtermen's Licences.

Three Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed, and one new licence granted.

WATER SUPPLY.

Nine samples of water were taken from public supplies during the year as follows :-

Town (Station Road) Main.	-	1.
do. do. Services.	-	4.
Poplar Hill - Direct from Well.	-	1.
do. do. Services.	-	2.
Service off Stowupland Supply.	-	1.

All with the exception of the sample from the Stowupland Supply were "very satisfactory". That from the Stowupland Supply was reported as "showing evidence of recent pollution". The Water Engineer of the Gipping Rural District Council, in whose area the Pumping Station is, was notified, and following remedial action four samples taken by him during the next four weeks were reported "very satisfactory".

SWIMMING POOL.

One sample of water was taken from the Swimming Pool, and reported as "very satisfactory".

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

A number of inspections were carried out, and informal notices given where necessary.

The powers and duties of the County Council under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, were delegated to the Urban District Council as from the 1st August.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A number of inspections were carried out, and nine informal notices given to remedy defects. All were complied with.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Two premises are registered under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into operation on 1st April, 1952, and one licence has been issued.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Attention has had to be called on two or three occasions to excessive amounts of smoke from both the C.W.S. Creamery and the Violet Hill Laundry. Inferior quality fuel has been blamed for these emissions, and both firms have taken steps to reduce a nuisance which has been rather less serious than in previous years. Both these concerns are in residential areas, but no complaints were received from residents.

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED AND PUBLIC PREMISES.

No action has been found necessary, all being reasonably well maintained.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These have given rise to no particular trouble during the year, though the conduct of some users leave much to be desired.

There is need for better Public Conveniences in the town, and plans were prepared for the erection of Gentlemen's Conveniences on the Camping Ground. No work was actually commenced.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Infective Hepatitis were investigated.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S RESEARCH ON POLIOMYELITIS - VIROLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF SEWAGE.

Four further sets of sewer swabs were taken and despatched to the Virus Reference Laboratory of the Central Public Health Laboratory in connection with the Virological Investigations into Poliomyelitis which is being carried out.

DISINFESTATIONS.

Four bug disinfestations were carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Forty-two complaints regarding infestations of rats and mice were received and dealt with, and frequent surveys of the town were carried out, particular attention being given to the places most likely to be affected. The number of treatments and the "known kill" was as follows :-

	<u>Treat-</u> <u>ments.</u>	<u>"Known Kill".</u>	
		<u>Rats.</u>	<u>Mice.</u>
Local Authority's Property :-			
Surface.	7.	109.	-.
Sewers.	4.	91.	-.
Business and Industrial Premises.	13.	110.	31.
Private Dwelling-houses.	128.	396.	2.
Totals :-	152.	706.	33.
Infestations referred to County Pests Officer (Agricultural Properties).	2.		

The total of premises affected was 25 less than in 1951, and the "known kill" less by 85 rats and 27 mice, and this is some indication of the efficiency of the work, and of its necessity.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service continued satisfactorily throughout the year. Very few complaints were received, and most of those **that were** were found on investigation to be the fault of the complainants and not the collectors, e.g., red hot ashes in bins, very wet contents, garden refuse, etc. The public could help considerably by taking greater care concerning what is placed in their bins.

A further 25 refuse bins were supplied by the Council at a charge of 4/- per year, making a total of 217 issued since the scheme started in October 1950. This scheme appears to be generally appreciated by owners and occupiers. Four bins were provided privately following service of Informal Notices.

The refuse tip has given rise to no nuisance, and the only troubles have been those arising from trespassers, and from the haphazard dumping of rubbish, particularly at week-ends, by unauthorised persons.

SALVAGE.

The salvage of waste paper continued. The amount collected was 84 tons. 6½ cwt., being over 6½ tons above that of the previous year.

Unfortunately, the slump in prices resulted in a cash yield of only £858. 11. 2d, against £1,228. 4. 5d the previous year.

A trailer for attachment to the refuse collecting vehicle was purchased, to enable salvage to be collected at the same time as house refuse, and a bonus paid to the collectors based on the amounts received. **This** represented a considerable saving over the separate collection method. A power operated baling press was purchased and came into use during the middle of April.

The heavy drop in prices during the year resulted in the operations not more than paying their way, and the position was further aggravated by the Mills having to reduce their intake owing to excessive stocks resulting from a recession in demand for their products. All local authorities were asked to keep within a quota, based on an average of tonnage delivered during the first three months of the year, and because of this no efforts were made to increase collections. Collections were, however, some half a ton a month higher than during the previous year, and it is encouraging to note that those householders who came into the scheme at first have continued to put their salvage out for collection.

Other salvage receipts - Bones, Scrap Metal, Rags, string, etc. - produced £54. 9. 6d.

COMPLAINTS.

One hundred and ninety four complaints were received and dealt with.

NOTICES.

One hundred and forty four Informal Notices were given, either verbally or by letter.

One Statutory Notice, under the Public Health Act, 1936, section 83, was served and was complied with.

CONCLUSION.

This report only makes brief reference to the main features of the year's work. It will be observed that Meat Inspection is taking up an increasing amount of time, but it is work of first importance and efforts cannot be relaxed in that direction. Because of this, less time has been available for other work, but nothing of importance has been neglected, and much has been done to effect house repairs and to remedy nuisances of various kinds. Very little of the work of the department normally comes to the direct notice of the Council, but I am alive to their support, for which I express my thanks and appreciation. I would also express sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Marjory Dawson), and to all other Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I acknowledge with thanks the very ready assistance given me throughout the year by the Slaughterhouse Manager, and the Slaughtering staff. Their co-operation has materially assisted the Meat Inspection work.

I acknowledge also the generally efficient manner in which the Refuse Collectors have carried out their work. This team of men is carrying out a very important service, and it is pleasing to note that despite constant and daily contact with the public very few justifiable complaints have been received concerning them or their work.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. S. FISHER.

Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Foods Inspector, and
Salvage Officer.

